cent reservation in Government jobs to the economically poor among the forward castes and has requested the Central Government to make suitable amendments in the Constitution therefor;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action contemplated by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan have recommended to Central Government to provide for reservation in Government jobs on economic criteria upto a limit of 14% to forward castes keeping intact the existing 49% reservation to the communities belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes.The State Government have requested the Central Government to initiate a Constitutional amendment to give effect to the principle of servation based on economic criteria since the prevailing limit of 50% reservation has been fixed by Supreme Court of India in Indira Sawhney's case. The State Government has also suggested to the Central Government to consider the issue at the national level and take a policy decision after consulting various State Government so that reservation on economic criteria can be extended to the economically weaker sections of society.

(c) In consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, the Government have initiated action for setting up a Commission to study and recommend reservation for the economically backward classes not covered by the present reservation policy.

Supply of Coal to Thermal Power Plants in Madhya Pradesh

†*54. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal provided to the thermal power plants per month in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the power generation has been adversely affected in the thermal power plants in Madhya Pradesh and power crisis has worsened in the State due to the less supply of coal;

(c) the reasons for short supply of coal; and

(d) whether the Central Government would help the State in resolving the power crisis by providing sufficient coal to these plants as per their demand?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The Standing Linkage Committee (Short-Term) has provided an average monthly linkage in respect of power stations of Madhya Pradesh (M.P.) the last two years as under:-

(figures in '000 tonnes)

Power stations	2001-2002 Average Despatch monthly linkage		2002-2003 Average monthly linkage	(Prov) Despatch
Amarkantak	95	66	105	95
Sarni	581	521	614	567
Birsingpur	346	288	395	363
MPSEB	1022	875	1114	1025
Vindhyachal	500	857	600	889
Total M.P.	1522	1732	1714	1914

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Coal supply to MPSEB power plants was made by coal companies based on the matching payments made by MPSEB. Sometimes coal companies were forced to regulate coal supplies from time to time due to erractic and inadequate payment.

(d) Coal companies namely NCL, SECL and WCL are fully geared to supply coal to power plants of Madhya Pradesh Subject to their adhering to payment terms.